

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image information processing apparatus capable of entering image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute
5 information pertaining to the image data,

said image information processing apparatus comprising:
communications means for receiving the image information;
and

control means which determines whether or not the
10 attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence, from header information pertaining to the image information received by said communications means, and which immediately decompresses image data included in the image information when the attribute information and the image
15 data are determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence.

2. An image information processing apparatus capable of entering image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute
20 information pertaining to the image data,

said image information processing apparatus comprising:

control means which stores, into header information pertaining to image information, information indicating that attribute information and image data are arranged in a
25 predetermined sequence and which produces image information

by means of storing the attribute information and the image data in a predetermined sequence; and

output means for outputting the generated image information.

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3. The image information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said output means exchanges, with a receiver device which is to send the image information, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of attribute information and image data, and

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said control means generates the image information on the basis of a result of exchange of the negotiation information.

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4. An image information processing apparatus capable of entering image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data,

said image information processing apparatus comprising:

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communications means which exchanges, with a sender device for sending the image information, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute information and which receives the image information; and

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control means which immediately decompresses image data

included in the image information upon receipt of a message indicating that the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence, as a result of exchange of the negotiation information.

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5. An image information processing apparatus which produces image information in an image file format, the format enabling storage of image data and attribute information thereof in arbitrary positions,

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the processing comprising:

a determination step of determining whether or not the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence, from header information pertaining to

5 the entered image information; and

a decompression step of immediately decompressing image data included in the image information when in the determination step the attribute information and the image data are determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence.

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7. A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a program for causing a computer to perform processing for producing image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data,

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the processing comprising:

a sequential information storage step of storing, into header information of the image information, information indicating that the attribute information and image data are stored in a predetermined sequence;

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an image information generation step of producing image information by means of storing attribute information and image data in a predetermined sequence; and

an output processing step of outputting generated image information.

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8. A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a program for causing a computer to perform processing for entering and decompressing image information in an image file
5 format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, the processing comprising:

a negotiation processing step of conducting, with a sender device which sends the image information, negotiations in
10 connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute information; and

a decompression operation step of immediately decompressing image data included in the received image information, when through the negotiation processing step it
15 is reported that the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence.

9. A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a program for causing a computer to perform processing for
20 producing image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data,

the processing comprising:

a negotiation processing step of conducting, with a
25 receiver device which sends the image information, negotiations

in connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute information;

5 an image information generation step of producing the image information by means of arranging attribute information and image data in a predetermined sequence, on the basis of the result of negotiations performed in the negotiation processing step; and

an output processing step of outputting produced image information.